

Fertility among female hairdressers - the reference cohort

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Creator/Principal investigator(s)

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Research principal

[Region Skåne](#) - Occupational and Environmental Medicine

Description

The study investigated whether working as a hairdresser has a negative impact on fertility, measured as time to pregnancy and miscarriage risk. Methods: Self-administered questionnaires were sent to 5289 Swedish hairdressers (response rate 50%) and to 5299 age-matched women from the general Swedish population (response rate 54%). Information was collected on time to pregnancy or trying time for women who had tried, but failed, to conceive at the time of the study. The outcome of the pregnancy was determined and categorized as either miscarriage or stillbirth or live birth. The hairdressers were compared with the referents with respect to these two outcomes. Within the hairdresser cohort, the effects of hair treatments, as well as physical workload and stress were investigated. Results: The hairdressers were less successful than the reference cohort in conceiving (fecundability ratio 0.91, 95% confidence interval 0.83-0.99). The effect was reduced after first-month conceptions were excluded, the indication being that the effect may be the result of birth control bias. Within the hairdresser cohort, a selfperceived stressful work situation seemed to prolong the time to pregnancy. No effects were found for the different chemical hair treatments. There was no cohort difference with respect to miscarriage risk (odds ratio 1.12, 95% confidence interval 0.88-1.42), but miscarriage risks were increased for most of the hair treatments and for self-perceived stressful work situations. However, none of these effects were statistically significant. Conclusions: The present study indicates a negative impact on time to pregnancy and miscarriage risk for working as a hairdresser.

Purpose:

To investigate whether working as a hairdresser has a negative impact on female fertility

Data contains personal data

Yes

Sensitive personal data

Yes

Unit of analysis

[Individual](#)

Time Method

[Cross-section](#)

Time period(s) investigated

2000 – 2000

Number of individuals/objects

2860

Response rate/participation rate

54%

Data format / data structure

[Numeric](#)

Data collection 1

- Mode of collection: Self-administered questionnaire: paper
- Time period(s) for data collection: 2000 – 2000
- Source of the data: Population group

Geographic spread

Geographic description: Sverige

Responsible department/unit

Occupational and Environmental Medicine

Research area

[Medical and health sciences](#) (Standard för svensk indelning av forskningsämnen 2011)

[Health sciences](#) (Standard för svensk indelning av forskningsämnen 2011)

[Occupational health and environmental health](#) (Standard för svensk indelning av forskningsämnen 2011)

[Health](#) (CESSDA Topic Classification)

Keywords

[Reproduction \(biological\)](#), [Cohort studies](#), [Pregnancy](#), [Occupations](#), [Occupational exposure](#), [Chemicals](#), [Fertility \(human\)](#), [Miscarriage](#), [Scania](#), [Epihealth](#), [Epihealth_skåne](#)

Publications

Axmon A, Rylander L, Albin M, Hagmar L. Factors affecting time to pregnancy.
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Scand J Work Environ Health. 2006 Feb;32(1):51-60.

Axmon A, Hagmar L. Time to pregnancy and pregnancy outcome.
Fertil Steril. 2005 Oct;84(4):966-74.

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Contact for questions about the data

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